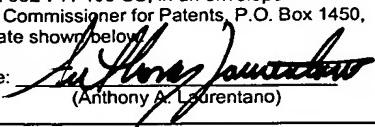


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EL 982 741 108 US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: November 26, 2003 Signature:   
(Anthony A. Laurentano)

Docket No.: SIW-075  
(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Kenichiro Ueda, *et al.*

Application No.: NEW APPLICATION

Art Unit: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: A FUNCTION MAINTAINING METHOD FOR  
A FUEL CELL SYSTEM

### **FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

### **INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.